



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE February 26, 2007

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Senate Bill 667 - An Act Concerning Funding for Local Health Departments

The Department of Public Health provides the following information concerning Senate Bill 667.

The responsibilities of local health departments have increased significantly in the past few years. Not only do local health departments have a critical role in emergency preparedness and response efforts, they must still protect Connecticut residents from emerging infectious diseases, like SARS and smallpox as well as any natural disasters.

In addition to the increasing demands on local health departments in emergency preparedness, the prevalence rates of chronic diseases, such as obesity, heart disease and diabetes are posing even greater challenges to our local health departments.

Although there are currently no funds available to increase payments to health departments, it is important to recognize the importance of supporting the core essential public health programs and policies that promote good health; prevent disease outbreaks and conditions that give rise to poor health; and protect the constituents of Connecticut from health related threats.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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